



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

SYNOPSIS

GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, April 2, 2008
5:00 P.M.**

**City Hall
Room W-120
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113**

MELANIE RICHARDSON, CHAIR

MARY ANN RUIZ, VICE CHAIR

MIKE FLAUGHER

LESLEE HAMILTON

G.M. HARDING

JAMES KIM

JULIE MATSUSHIMA

ERIK KARSTAN SMITH

1 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Present: Chair Richardson, Commissioners Flaughner, Smith,
Kim and Hamilton

Late: None

Excused Absence: Commissioner Harding

Absent: Vice-Chair Ruiz, Commissioner Matsushima

2 ORDERS OF THE DAY

Chair Richardson stated that in response to a request from the public, Item 7.4 would be given a time certain start time of 5:20 p.m.

Item 9.2 was taken out of order. The Coyote Valley Task Force Liaison Report was heard in conjunction with item 7.6.

3 CEREMONIAL ITEMS

4 ORAL COMMUNICATION

David Wall, Public, distributed a letter he wrote re: Revenue Generation – Creation of Dedicated funds for City Parks.

5 CONSENT CALENDAR

5.1 Approval of March 5, 2008 Synopsis

5.2 Approval of March 19, 2008 Synopsis

5.3 Update on Greenprint Status

5.4 Review of Planning Applications

It was moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Kim, and voted unanimously that the Consent Calendar Items be Approved.

6 PUBLIC HEARING

6.1 Public Hearing for the Naming of a New Community Center at the Davis Intermediate School Campus

Jose Villareal and Mary Jo Coash-McCully, Redevelopment Agency gave an overview of the new Community Center located at the Davis Intermediate School Campus. This is a joint-use project with the school district and, while the City of San Jose would be the main users, the school would have limited use of the center. It is approximately 20,000 square feet and has a gym, an early childcare center, a computer room and additional staff areas. Two naming recommendations were received from the community.

It was moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Flaughner, and voted unanimously that the new community center at the Davis Intermediate School Campus be named Edenvale Community Center.

6.2 Public Hearing for the Naming of a New Park at San Antonio Street, Opposite 34th Street

Brad Brown, Planner II, PRNS gave a brief overview of the park. It is a small, 3,000 square foot tot lot. The Master Plan was approved last year and community meetings were held. Although community outreach has been done, no recommendations for a name have been submitted. Staff recommends naming the park after the street.

It was moved by Commissioner Kim, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton, and voted unanimously that the new park at San Antonio Street, opposite 34th street, San Antonio Tot Lot.

6.3 Public Hearing for the Naming of a New Park at Madden Avenue, East of Jackson Avenue

Mr. Brown gave an overview of the park. It is a small, 15,000 square foot park. Although community outreach has been done, no recommendations for a name have been submitted by the community or the developer. Staff recommends naming the park after the street.

It was moved by Commissioner Flaughner, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and voted unanimously that the new park at Madden Avenue, east of Jackson Avenue, be named Madden Park.

6.4 Approve Vista Montana Park Sites Conceptual Plans

Mr. Brown stated that the proposal was presented at the last Commission meeting.

Eric Schoenauer, the land use consultant representing the Vista Montana townhomes and Equity Tasman LLC reminded the Commission that the park is 6 acres with turnkey elements and that the Commission wanted to present a commendation to the development team, Mayor Reed, Councilmember Chu and the Novellus Corporation.

It was moved by Commissioner Flaughner, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton, and voted unanimously to approve the Master Plan for Vista Montana Park.

7 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Recommendation to Council and Planning Commission Regarding Spring 2008 General Plan Amendment Proposals

Dave Mitchell, Parks Planning Manager gave a brief overview of the report.

Erik Schoennauer, Silverstone Communities spoke in support of approving the draft letters to City Council and the Planning Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Flaughner, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton, and voted unanimously to approve the letters, with recommended change, to City Council and the Planning Commission.

7.2 Recommendation to Council Regarding Review and Approval of Extraordinary Benefit

Dave Mitchell, Parks Planning Manager gave a brief overview of the report.

Chair Richardson stated that she had a couple of minor editorial changes that would not affect the content of the letters. She stated she would discuss this with Mr. Mitchell after the meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Flaughner, and voted unanimously to authorize the Chair to edit the letter without changing the content and authorize her to sign the letter.

7.3 Approval of Facility Re-use Update and Policy

Angel Rios, Deputy Director, PRNS gave an overview of the report which included background information, the benefits of a community center reuse policy, the previous timeline for the policy review process and the service provider selection process.

Commissioner Flaughner asked if the risk assessment is well managed in the policy.

Mr. Rios replied yes, the policy has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office and Risk Management.

Commissioner Flaughner asked how competition between neighborhood interests groups that want to use a facility will be managed.

Mr. Rios replied that the Community Advisory Task Force will meet with the various communities to discuss their priorities. RFP process will include the community priorities.

Commissioner Kim asked if one of the Commissioners could be on the Community Advisory Task Force.

Mr. Rios responded yes. He added that each site will have multiple uses and a disclaimer will be built into the policy which would give the City of San Jose precedent in the case of a catastrophic emergency.

It was moved by Commissioner Kim, seconded by Commissioner Flaughner, and voted unanimously to approve the Facility Reuse Policy, including a letter of support to City Council, and to authorize the Chair to sign the letter.

7.4 Recommendation on Proposed Charter Amendment Extending Duration of Leases on City Parks

Albert Balagso, Director, PRNS gave some background information on the proposed charter amendment. He stated that staff is presenting this item without taking a position and requested that the Parks and Recreation Commission develop a recommendation in response to the November 2008 ballot measure to change the 3 year charter limitation on parks.

Neil Rufino, Assistant to the Director, PRNS made a presentation which included an overview of the current charter and the possible changes, as well as the benefits and impacts if the charter amendment passes.

Chair Richardson invited citizen comments at this point. The following citizens spoke on this issue:

Don Gagliardi, Public spoke in support of a proposed charter amendment. He stated that 3 years is too limited to be effective and feels it should be 20 years.

Aurelia Sanchez, Public was neutral on the issue but expressed concerns. She feels that 30 year leases would be too long and is afraid that costs would be too high for individuals.

Tina Morrill, Public spoke in support of the proposed charter amendment. She stated that this proposal opens the door to have a necessary dialogue.

Jeff Philips, Public spoke in support of the proposed charter amendment.

Eric Schoennauer, Public spoke in support of the proposed charter amendment. He added that maximum flexibility is important.

Stuart Bernstein, Public spoke in support - if a charter amendment were well crafted. He indicated support related to regional parks, but is not supportive of a change impacting neighborhood parks. He also supports a periodic public review process of any site developed or sponsored to include the ability to extend or deny continued use (although this seems better suited as a condition held within an agreement, not within the charter).

Sylvia Lowe, Chinese Cultural Garden/Overfelt Gardens volunteer read a letter she wrote against the proposed charter. She fears that public parks will disappear.

Helen Chapman, Public spoke in support of the proposed charter amendment but urged caution with regards to neighborhood parks.

R.J. Castro, Silver Creek Sportsplex spoke in support of the proposed charter amendment.

Delores P. Gatherwright, Public did not speak on the charter amendment but did express a need for a park and youth activities in the Meadowfair Neighborhood.

Linda Dittes, Public expressed cautious support of the proposed charter amendment.

This ended the public comments for Item 7.4.

Commissioner Kim asked what the timeline is for returning to Council with a recommendation.

Mr. Rufino replied it needs to return to Council at the beginning of August in order to be placed on the ballot.

Director Balagso added that Commissioners should finalize their recommendation at the April 16, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. This will allow enough time for the Rules Committee to hear it and schedule it for the August 5, 2008 Council meeting.

The Commission discussed the need for more information before a recommendation could be made. The Parks and Recreation Commission Development meeting on April 16, 2008 will be dedicated to only two topics: the Construction & Conveyance Tax issue and the Proposed Charter Amendment. The Commission directed staff to return to the April 16 meeting with a staff report that includes information on the following:

- Worst Case Scenario vs. Best Outcome
- Quality of Life for Citizens (now and in the future)
- Ballot Language
- Timeframe (more than 3 years, less than 20) with options to renew
- A breakdown of the types of facilities
- Ballot History
- Keeping points as City Policy vs. Ballot Measure

It was moved by Commissioner Flaughner, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and voted 4-0-1 to defer action to the April 16, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission Development/Study Session meeting. Commissioner Hamilton abstained.

7.5 Selection of Commissioner to Attend Planning Commission Meeting on 4/9/08 – Topic: Riparian Corridor

It was moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Kim, and voted 4-0-1 to appoint Commissioner Flaughner to attend the Planning Commission meeting on 4/9/08 and to appoint Vice-Chair Ruiz as an alternate. Commissioner Flaughner abstained.

7.6 Approval of Revisions to Liaison Report List

The Commission discussed the proposed revisions.

Commissioner Flaughner stated that the North San Jose Task Force could move from Ongoing to Ad-hoc.

Helen Chapman, Liaison for the Coyote Valley Task Force stated that the last meeting of the Task Force would be on April 14, 2008 and could move from Ongoing to Sunset. She noted that review of the land use plan has been moved to a new committee to be called “Coyote Valley Plan – a Vision for Sustainable Development”. There will be an open house on April 14, 2008, from 5:15 to 5:40 p.m. Anyone interested in reviewing the revised plan is welcome to attend.

Commissioner Flaughner asked if alternatives for the Bernal alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail were being looked at.

Ms. Chapman replied the updated land use plan altered the use of the lake. She added that the Task Force voted to include specific plans.

Director Balagso suggested that staff return to the Parks and Recreation Commission with an update.

It was moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Flaughner, and voted unanimously to accept staff's recommendations for revisions to the Liaison Report list with additional changes as noted above.

8 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Albert Balagso, Director, PRNS stated the Construction and Conveyance will soon be ready for review. A table, presenting 4 options (including the Park Maintenance Subcommittee), is being prepared by staff.

Director Balagso also stated that the City Manager is planning to release a summary of the proposed budget early this year. Staff will share this with the Commission when it is released.

9 LIAISON REPORTS

9.1 Council Liaison

Kathy Sutherland, District 10 Liaison, noted that the sports fields kick-off at Leland High School will be Saturday, May 10, 2008.

9.2 Coyote Valley Task Force

Ms. Chapman gave an update in conjunction with item 7.6 above.

9.3 Senior Citizens Commission

Commissioner Flaughner asked if the Senior Citizens Commission had any input on the reuse issue.

Frances Jones, Senior Citizens Commission Liaison replied the two Commissioners who are active in this were not present at the last meeting but she will be sending them the information from tonight's Parks and Recreation Commission presentation.

9.4 Parks Maintenance Sub-Committee Report

No report.

9.5 Land Use Policy Sub-Committee Report

No report.

9.6 Youth Commission

No report.

9.7 Community Sports Fields Study Committee

Commissioner Flaughner asked about the Municipal Golf program report.

Director Balagso replied that staff is meeting with the City Manager on April 3 to discuss the timeline for this report. Potentially, it will go before the Asset Management Committee for review.

9.8 General Plan Task Force Report

Commissioner Hamilton stated the last meeting was dedicated to the topics of Health & Communities and the Habitat Conservation Plan.

9.9 Sunshine Reform Task Force

No report.

9.10 Greenprint Subcommittee

No report.

9.11 North San Jose Task Force

No report.

9.12 Martial-Cottle Project

Commissioner Smith stated the third meeting was held in the middle of March. The Martial-Cottle project is located between Chynoweth and Camden and was donated to the County as parkland. Discussion at the last meeting centered around possible uses and of linking to park trails in order to make it a walkable park.

10 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10.1 Update on 2008 Summer Aquatics Program

Suzanne Wolf, Superintendent, PRNS stated three grand openings will occur very soon (Ryland on June 21, Alviso on June 23 and Biebrach on June 28). Recruitments for lifeguards are currently underway and pool managers have been hired. Five pools will be open this summer and registration will begin on April 7. Council approved the fees and charges for this year. In response to a Councilmember request, staff will be looking at having "\$1 Days" during certain non-peak hours. There will also be free passes for qualified scholarship program participants. The pilot program, which will extend the season for swim lessons at Camden Pool and Fair Swim Center, begins this year. Additionally, a new cadet program, which will provide lifeguard training to local residents will begin soon.

10.2 KaBOOM, Welch Park, Saturday May 3rd (early morning through early afternoon)

Julie Edmonds-Mares, Assistant Director noted the KaBoom volunteer opportunity will take place on Saturday, May 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Welch Park.

10.3 Future Agenda Items

10.4 Commissioner News Items

11 CORRESPONDENCE

12 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next general Parks and Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2008.